UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/6 (Prog. 32) Corr.1
31 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME VI. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Programme 32. Regional cooperation for development in Europe

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which reviewed the initial revisions to the programme at the first part of its thirty-second session (A/47/16 (Part I)), further revisions are proposed below to the narrative of programme 32, as it appears in document A/47/6 (Prog. 32) of 28 April 1992. These revisions reflect all the recommendations of the Committee.

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

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4. With these further revisions, the revised programme 32, Regional cooperation for development in Europe, replaces the narrative of programme 32 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1.

5. The following text modifies paragraphs 32.13 to 32.16, 32.24, 32.28, 32.50 to 32.52, 32.54 to 32.80, 32.83, 32.89 and 32.92 of A/47/6 (Prog. 32).

A. Programme

Paragraph 32.13 — In the seventh line, after "possible areas of work", insert ", including a study of the potential hazard of atomic radiation on the territory of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in close cooperation with IAEA and other relevant agencies,".

Paragraph 32.14 — At the end of the paragraph, insert a new sentence as follows: "The Secretariat will take into account the pertinent provisions of the Helsinki decisions adopted at the summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in July 1992 and keep the Commission and its principal subsidiary bodies informed in this regard."

Paragraph 32.15 — Replace the titles of subprogrammes 4, 5, 7 and 8 with the following:

Subprogramme 4. Trade facilitation

Subprogramme 5. Economic analysis

Subprogramme 7. Development of international trade

Subprogramme 8. Industry and technology

Paragraph 32.16 — Replace the first sentence of the paragraph as follows: "Subprogrammes 1 to 5 are designated high priority."

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. ENVIRONMENT

Paragraph 32.24 — At the beginning of the first sentence, insert: "Bearing in mind the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,".

SUBPROGRAMME 2. TRANSPORT

Paragraph 32.28 — In the last sentence, replace "context of the further liberalization of trade" with "framework of the mandated activities of ECE".

SUBPROGRAMME 4. TRADE

Title of subprogramme	For TRADE read TRADE FACILITATION
Paragraphs 32.50 and 32.51	Delete paragraphs 32.50 and 32.51 and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly. (The text of paragraphs 32.50 and 32.51 is transferred to subprogramme 7 below.)
Paragraph 32.52 (new para. 30.50)	In the first sentence of subparagraph (a), delete "in the area of trade facilitation:".
	Delete subparagraphs (b) and (c) (transferred to subprogramme 7 below).
Paragraphs 32.54 and 32.55	Delete paragraphs 32.54 and 32.55 and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly. (The text of paragraphs 32.54 and 32.55 is transferred to subprogramme 7 below.)

SUBPROGRAMME 5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Title of subprogramme	For ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT read ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

SUBPROGRAMME 6. ENERGY

Paragraph 32.65 (new para. 32.61)	In the second sentence, before "oil substitution" insert "coal and".
Paragraph 32.67 (new para. 32.63)	In the first sentence of subparagraph (a), replace "internationalization" with "internalization".
	In the same sentence, after "sustainable development" insert ", including mitigation of the effects of the Chernobyl accident and related environmental and climate risks,".

SUBPROGRAMME 7. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Title of subprogramme	For INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT read DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
	(a) Objectives
Paragraphs 32.69 (new para. 32.65)	Replace paragraph 32.69 with the text of existing paragraph 32.47 as follows:
	"32.65 The legislative authority for the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolutions 44/205 and 44/218; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/61, 1988/68, 1989/118 and 1991/76; and ECE decisions O (45), P (45) and A (46)."

Paragraphs 32.70 to 32.75 (new paras. 32.66-32.70)

Transfer the text under paragraphs 32.70 to 32.75 to subprogramme 8 below and replace it with the text of paragraphs 32.50, 32.51, 32.52 (b) and (c), 32.54 and 32.55 as follows:

"32.66 The economic interdependence of ECE countries, the economic and foreign trade reforms being introduced in the Central and Eastern European States and the development of the subregional integration process make it necessary to undertake periodic exchanges of information on trade trends, policies and problems and on changing forms of economic cooperation (such as joint ventures, promotion of foreign investment, privatization, training) in the region. The transition process of Central and Eastern European countries to market economies requires radical changes in their foreign trade systems and patterns. Member countries that are developing from the economic point of view encounter special trade difficulties and are not as well equipped as other countries of the region to solve them.

"32.67 The development and exchange of transparent market information and experience, including marketing, investment, privatization, financing techniques and improved business contacts, constitute important means for promoting intraregional trade.

"32.68 The objectives of the subprogramme are [(b) in the area of trade policy] to assist the European countries in transition to a market economy to elaborate measures aimed at creating favourable conditions for intraregional trade expansion and structural diversification; [(c) in the area of trade promotion] to create favourable conditions for industrial cooperation between countries in the ECE region; and to promote conditions for a greater participation of small and medium-sized enterprises in intraregional trade.

"(b) Course of action of the secretariat

"32.69 The secretariat will undertake periodic reviews and analyses of regional and interregional trade trends and issues and continue to publish new studies on changes in trade policies, development finance, foreign investment, privatization, compensation trade and trade in services, in cooperation with other intergovernmental organizations. Particular attention will be paid to specific problems encountered by small and medium-sized enterprises, member countries in transition and those which are developing from the economic point of view. The secretariat will also contribute to the preparation of seminars and workshops on these subjects.

"32.70 The secretariat will continue the dissemination of materials of assistance to Governments and to business circles. Surveys and studies will be undertaken on new forms of investment ventures and industrial cooperation. The quarterly bulletin entitled East-West Joint Ventures and Investment News will continue to be published. New guides on contract practices in international commercial transactions will be elaborated."

SUBPROGRAMME 8. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Title of subprogramme

For SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY read INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) Objectives

Paragraph 32.76 (new para. 32.71)

Add a reference to General Assembly resolution 42/186 (to reflect the transfer of the text of paragraph 32.69 under subprogramme 7, Industrial development).

Paragraphs 32.77 to 32.79 (new paras. 32.72-32.79)

Insert as shown below the text of paragraphs 32.70 to 32.75 transferred from subprogramme 7, Industrial development. The modifications to this text as well as to that of paragraphs 32.77 to 32.79 are shown with the proposed deletions in brackets and the additions underlined.

"32.72 Profound economic and technological changes have occurred in recent years in all sectors of industry and, in particular in the steel, chemical and engineering industries, as well as in automation, [which will continue to affect these industrial sectors - possibly even] and these can be expected to affect the pattern of development in these sectors of industry as well as in industry in general at an accelerated rate - during the next decade. Problems related to the supply of raw materials, as well as those resulting from technological developments, quality requirements, energy constraints, [protection of the environment,] as well as trade and competition, and the need for the protection of the environment will persist. The importance attached by Governments to making sustainable development the guiding principle in the interrelated objectives of economic growth, environmental protection and sound development within the region will have a significant impact on the way in which priorities are set and in the study and solution of underlying problems affecting [those industrial sectors.] the above-mentioned sectors of industry and industry in general. In the economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe, there is [also] a need for considerable restructuring of state-owned industrial enterprises [in those industrial sectors so that they could] as well as privatization programmes in order to allow industry to operate effectively under market-economy conditions and become integrated within

the global economy. There will be a need for further structural adjustments as a result of intensified cooperation among countries at the subregional level and the emergence of increased production capacities in the newly industrialized countries of the other regions of the world. There will also be a need for continuing international cooperation to mitigate the effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

"32.73 In the area of standardization and related activities, the current process of development and harmonization of standards and conformity assessment procedures in the region, especially with respect to regulated products, requires further attention. [Its possible detraction from the policy of global acceptance of international standards and systems for conformity assessment can become a major non-tariff barrier to international trade.] The ECE member countries with economies in transition will have to adapt their standardization policies and procedures to those prevailing in the market-economy countries or face major trade barriers.

"32.74 Science and technology are recognized as being increasingly important factors in economic development. The processes whereby research and innovation take place and their impact on economic development, industrial infrastructure, productivity and investment patterns call for further analysis based on exchange of information and experience among national policy makers. This will be especially important for those involved in elaborating science and technology policy in the economies in transition. The escalating costs of research and development and the increasingly limited availability of resources, coupled with the rapid pace and complexity of technological innovations, make it desirable for Governments to cooperate more closely in identifying new forms and directions of international scientific and technological cooperation, and in analysing and exchanging experience on emerging science and technology issues having a multidisciplinary character. [So far,] Although considerable differences will continue to exist among ECE countries with respect to the developments taking place in science and technology and in their respective systems of economic management, approaches to planning and business practices, with the move towards market-economy systems in the economies in transition, there will be a need for intensified cooperation among science and technology policy makers in the West and those in Central and Eastern Europe in order to assist the latter in adapting their policies to the new conditions.

"32.75 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

"(a) To facilitate cooperation in the ECE region in the industrial sectors pertaining to the steel, chemical and engineering industries and automation and the process of reform in those sectors, as well as in industry in general, in the economies in transition and to provide a framework within which the member countries can exchange information and experience;

"(b) To create conditions under which ECE members can develop a unified strategy for further diversification of the industry structure in order to enhance [the] its economic and technological development [in that sector] in specific subregions and, in particular, in the economies in transition;

"(c) To promote international agreements and instruments on standardization policies and procedures in the region in order to ensure the conformity of the standardization [process] and legislative processes to global policies and trends in that field;

"(d) To provide a forum for the exchange of experience between member Governments in the formulation and/or implementation of science and technology policy; the formulation of proposals aimed at the promotion of international cooperation in the field of science and technology policy; the improvement and coordination of the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission in the field of science and technology; and the coordination of the activities of the Commission with other international or intergovernmental organizations dealing with the problems of scientific and technological cooperation;

"(e) To provide conditions and avenues for studying selected issues in science and technology, and to review changes in national science and technology policies and institutions.

"(b) Course of action of the secretariat

"32.76 In [line with those objectives,] the area of industry, the ECE secretariat will undertake research and analysis of conditions and trends in the industrial sector of the region and will disseminate the findings among the members of ECE with a view to elaborating the future industrial development strategy in the region and in particular, in the economies in transition in Central and Eastern Europe. In that context, the secretariat will prepare and publish (a) annual reviews on current developments and prospects, including international trade in the steel, chemical and engineering industries, as well

as in automation; (b) biennial updates on steel scrap statistics; and (c) five-year periodic surveys of developments affecting the chemical industry and the engineering industries and automation, with special attention to the environmental and energy aspects of the production process in steel, chemicals and engineering, and statistics for sectors of the engineering industry that are of commercial importance. Studies will be undertaken on steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap; on the problems arising from the methods for the preparation of scrap as well as improvements that can be brought to all scrap that uses these methods; on market trends and international trade in the above-mentioned sectors; and on selected economic, technological, environmental and resource issues. Work on the elaboration and dissemination of relevant statistics will continue.

"32.77 In the area of standardization and related activities, the ECE secretariat will pay particular attention to the harmonization of standards and technical regulations with a view to facilitating trade [, and] transport and economic cooperation within the region [will receive particular attention]. Further recommendations aimed at the promotion of international agreements and other appropriate arrangements on the acceptance of certificates of conformity with standards and technical regulations will be [adopted] elaborated by the secretariat for adoption by national authorities and other international organizations.

"32.78 [In the light of those objectives, the ECE secretariat will:] In the field of science and technology, the secretariat will [(a)] review major developments and changes in national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions, including quadrennial reviews of changes in overall national science and technology policies, priorities and institutions; [(b)] maintain an inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology; [(c)] disseminate information on selected issues in science and technology and assist the process of reform in the economies in transition [, in particular by contributing to the preparation of periodic seminars, workshops, symposia and other similar informal forums].

"32.79 The ECE secretariat will organize seminars and study tours [will be organized] on selected issues relating to industry and technology of specific interest to countries of the region. In order to facilitate the process of reform in the economies in transition, the secretariat will also play an active role in the preparation and organization of workshops, symposia and other similar informal forums, in particular to address transition issues."

SUBPROGRAMME 9. AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

Paragraph 32.83

At the end of subparagraph (a), after "food and agriculture;" add the following: "and exploring ways and means of reducing the economic and social consequences in the agricultural sector of contamination from the Chernobyl nuclear accident;".

At the end of subparagraph (b), after "forest products sector;" add the following: "and exploring ways and means of mitigating the impact on forest ecosystems and forest industries and health dangers to forest workers of contamination from the Chernobyl accident."

SUBPROGRAMME 10. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Paragraph 32.89

At the end of the paragraph, add a new sentence as follows: "Attention will be given to human settlements aspects in the countries concerned in relation to the consequences of the Chernobyl accident."

Paragraph 32.92

In the third sentence, after "international organizations", insert ", including UNEP and Habitat,".